4

Reasons humbly proposed to the PARLIAMENT of England, for making a Free Trade for Tann'd Leather, in the Bill now committed for continuance of the Act for Transporting of Leather, &c.

I. OR that the reason of the Law that formerly hindred a Free Trade for Tann'd Leather, was to prevent Transportation, And the reason now ceasing, (Transportation by the encrease of the Commodity being made lawful) the Law it

self ought to be no longer a restraint upon Trade.

II. For that Transportation (which hath been found very beneficial to this Realm since the late Act in that case provided) cannot be so effectually encouraged as it deserves, unless the Transporter may sell at home, what in buying in the gross for Transportation he sinds unsit for Foraign Trade, or by any sudden emergency may become unsafe to adventure on the Seas.

III. For that by making a Free Trade of Leather, the Fairs and Markets in remote Counties, will generally be advanced in their prizes of the Commodity, so as to bear proportion with Leaden-Hall Market, and Leaden-Hall will thereby be kept to equal and indifferent Rates, and the Trade of Leather be ballanced throughout the Realm.

V. For that by keeping a restraint upon the buying and selling of Leather, the Tanners in and near London will monopolize the whole Trade of the Commodity, and it hath been the prudence of all Parliaments to prevent Monopolies as destructive to Trade

and Commerce.

V. For that a Retailer of Leather, as well as a Retailer of Cloath, and such like Commodities, is necessary for all the Realm, and in especial, for supplying the occasions of the poorer sort of Traders and Artificers, by furnishing them with Leather Curried and Drest, and proper for their use, who otherwise could not provide for Supplies to last until the weekly return of the Market, and the weeks time that must be spent in Currying after the Market day before it be sit for use, nor can their Stock hold out for providing by whole sale for the variety of Colours that Leather is now put into, and must be had for sitting of Customers and to maintain their Trade.

I. For that all the mischiefs and inconveniencies that can be opposed to the Free Trade of Leather, are sufficiently provided against, by searching and sealing of Leather by the Laws already provided for in all Markets and Corporations. So that it may be positively concluded, that liberty of Free Trade in Tann'd Leather, is best for the generality of men, even of the Tanners themselves, the London Tanners only excepted, whose

concern it is hoped will not preponderate a common good.